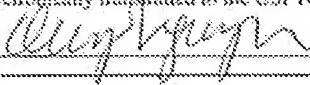


I hereby certify that this correspondence is being electronically transmitted to the USPTO on the date shown below.

Date: February 2, 2007

Signature:  (Quyen Nguyen)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No.: 10/735,030

Confirmation No.: 3503

Filing Date: December 12, 2003

Inventor(s): Vahid C. SAADAT et al.

Title: APPARATUS AND METHODS FOR FORMING AND
SECURING GASTROINTESTINAL TISSUE FOLDS

Examiner: Kotini, Pavitra

Group Art Unit: 3731

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT AND
RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT**

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This is in response to the restriction requirement set forth in the Office Action mailed November 2, 2006 for which a response is due December 2, 2006. Filed herewith is a Petition and fee for a two-month extension of time, thereby extending the deadline for response to February 2, 2007. Accordingly, this response is timely filed.

Claims 1-30 were presented for examination at filing. A Requirement for Restriction was issued, identifying patentably distinct inventions in three groups of claims. In response, please amend the application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 5 of this paper.